

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 7 and 70 as follows:

7. (Amended) A thermoplastic container, comprising:

a bottom;

a continuous wall [pair of opposing side walls and a pair of opposing end walls, said side walls and said end walls] extending upward from and encompassing said bottom[, said end walls extending between said side walls]; and

a base rim encompassing an upper edge of said continuous wall [side walls and said end walls] and extending laterally outwardly therefrom, said rim having an integrally formed outer flange with a pair of opposing anchoring portions, said outer flange forming at least one handle segment, each of said handle segments having a pair of generally parallel hinged portions and a graspable portion extending between said hinged portions, said hinged portions being rotatably connected to said respective anchoring portions for upward and downward swinging movements, said handle segments having means for releasably engaging said handle segments to each other, each of said hinged portions having at least one upwardly extending rib segment extending upwardly from an upper surface of the associated hinged portion, at least one downwardly extending rib segment extending downwardly from a lower surface of the associated hinged portion, and at least one integral hinge forming a definite bending point.

70. (Amended) A thermoplastic container comprising:

a base including a bottom, a continuous wall [pair of opposing base side walls, a pair of opposing base end walls], and a base rim, said continuous wall [base side walls and said base end walls] extending upward from and encompassing said bottom[, said base end walls extending between said base side walls], said base rim encompassing an upper edge of said continuous wall [base side walls and said base end walls] and extending laterally outwardly therefrom, said base rim having an upwardly protruding elongated rib, said rim having an integrally formed outer flange with a pair of opposing anchoring portions, each anchoring portion having a pair of ends, said outer flange defining a score forming at least one handle segment

being rotatably connected to said respective ends of said anchoring portions at integral hinges, said elongated rib and said anchoring portion defining a middle flange portion therebetween, said score extending into said middle flange portion.

Please add new claims 77-96 as follows.

-- 77. (New) A thermoplastic container, comprising:

a bottom;

a continuous wall extending upward from and encompassing the bottom, and

a rim encompassing an upper edge of the continuous wall and extending laterally outwardly therefrom, the rim including an integrally formed outer flange, the outer flange having anchoring portions and a pair of hinged handles, the handles being hingedly connected to the anchoring portions for upward and downward swinging movement, the handles having means for releasably engaging the handles to each other above a remainder of the container, at least one of the handles having at least one rib segment extending upwardly from an upper surface of the associated handle.

78. (New) The container of claim 77, wherein at least one of the handles has a plurality of upwardly extending rib segments extending upwardly from the upper surface of the associated handle.

79. (New) The container of claim 77, wherein the means for releasably engaging the handles includes at least one male rib extending from one of the handles and at least one depending female recess formed in the other of the handles.

80. (New) The container of claim 77, wherein the container further includes a cover having a top, a continuous cover wall, and a cover rim, the cover wall extending downward from and encompassing the top, the cover rim encompassing a lower edge of the cover wall and extending laterally outwardly therefrom.

81. (New) A thermoplastic container, comprising:

a bottom;

a continuous wall extending upward from and encompassing the bottom, and

a rim encompassing an upper edge of the continuous wall and extending laterally outwardly therefrom, the rim including an integrally formed outer flange, the outer flange having anchoring portions and a pair of hinged handles, the handles being hingedly connected to the anchoring portions for upward and downward swinging movement, the handles having means for releasably engaging the handles to each other above a remainder of the container, at least one of the handles having at least one rib segment extending downwardly from a lower surface of the associated handle.

82. (New) The container of claim 81, wherein at least one of the handles has a plurality of downwardly extending rib segments extending downwardly from the lower surface of the associated handle.

83. (New) The container of claim 81, wherein the means for releasably engaging the handles includes at least one male rib extending from one of the handles and at least one depending female recess formed in the other of the handles.

84. (New) The container of claim 81, wherein the container further includes a cover having a top, a continuous cover wall, and a cover rim, the cover wall extending downward from and encompassing the top, the cover rim encompassing a lower edge of the cover wall and extending laterally outwardly therefrom.

85. (New) A thermoplastic container, comprising:

a bottom;

a continuous wall extending upward from and encompassing the bottom; and

a rim extending laterally from an upper portion of the continuous wall and including an integrally formed outer flange, the outer flange having anchoring portions and a pair of hinged handles, the handles being hingedly connected to the anchoring portions for upward and downward

swinging movement, the handles having means for releasably engaging the handles to each other above a remainder of the container, at least one of the handles having a plurality of rib segments extending upwardly from an upper surface of the associated handle.

86. (New) The container of claim 85, wherein the means for releasably engaging the handles includes at least one male rib extending from one of the handles and at least one depending female recess formed in the other of the handles.

87. (New) The container of claim 85, wherein the bottom includes at least one reinforcing rib.

88. (New) A thermoplastic container, comprising:
a bottom;

a continuous wall extending upward from and encompassing the bottom; and
a rim extending laterally from an upper portion of the continuous wall and including an integrally formed outer flange, the outer flange having anchoring portions and a pair of hinged handles, the handles being hingedly connected to the anchoring portions for upward and downward swinging movement, the handles having means for releasably engaging the handles to each other above a remainder of the container, at least one of the handles having a plurality of rib segments extending downwardly from a lower surface of the associated handle.

89. (New) The container of claim 88, wherein the means for releasably engaging the handles includes at least one male rib extending from one of the handles and at least one depending female recess formed in the other of the handles.

90. (New) The container of claim 88, wherein the bottom includes at least one reinforcing rib.

91. (New) A thermoplastic container, comprising:

a base including

a bottom,

a continuous wall extending upward from and encompassing the bottom, and

a base rim, the base rim encompassing an upper edge of the continuous wall and extending laterally outwardly therefrom, the rim including an integrally formed outer flange, the outer flange having anchoring portions and a pair of hinged handles, the handles being hingedly connected to the anchoring portions for upward and downward swinging movement, the handles having means for releasably engaging the handles to each other, at least one of the handles having at least one rib segment extending from a surface of the associated handle;
and

a cover including

a top,

a continuous cover wall, and

a cover rim, the cover wall extending downward from and encompassing the top, the cover rim encompassing a lower edge of the cover wall and extending laterally outwardly therefrom, the cover rim adapted for matingly engaging the base rim.

92. (New) The container of claim 91, further including means for securing the cover to the base.

93. (New) The container of claim 92, wherein the means for securing the cover to the base includes a downwardly protruding rib of the cover rim and an upwardly protruding elongated rib of the base rim, the downwardly protruding rib of the cover rim being adapted for complementary press-fittable engagement with the upwardly protruding elongated rib of the base rim.

94. (New) The container of claim 92, wherein the means for securing the cover to the base includes at least one male rib and at least one corresponding female recess.

95. (New) The container of claim 91, wherein the container includes means for stacking the containers.

96. (New) A thermoplastic container, comprising:

a bottom;

a continuous wall extending upward from and encompassing the bottom, and

a base rim encompassing an upper edge of the continuous wall and extending laterally outwardly therefrom, the rim having an integrally formed outer flange with a pair of opposing anchoring portions, the outer flange forming at least one handle segment, each of the handle segments having a pair of generally parallel hinged portions and a graspable portion extending between the hinged portions, the hinged portions being rotatably connected to the respective anchoring portions for upward and downward swinging movements, the handle segments having means for releasably engaging the handle segments to each other, each of the hinged portions having at least one rib segment extending from a surface of the associated hinged portion. --